

know what, I didn't hate these people, I just randomly chose someone. It's a senseless act of violence. That will be a defense to an important element of this new created Federal offense.

Another thing we keep hearing people say is, and I had an amendment to address this, is being shut out. We should have had a right to vote on this. People say, well, no, you are specifically protected under the rule of evidence provision in this law. We even had Mr. DAVIS' amendment that further said religious speech is protected. But what they don't point to is what I'm pointing to, under that it says, "It may not be introduced as substantive evidence at trial, unless the evidence specifically relates to the offense."

Well, when you tie that with current existing Federal law, 18 U.S.C. 2(a), the law of principals, which is a good law, most States have it, the Federal Code has it, it says, Whoever aids, abets, counsels, commands, induces or procures a crime's commission is punishable, just as the principal. And for those of us who have been judges or prosecutors and have prosecuted or seen prosecuted people as a principal who didn't commit the offense, but they induced it, then you know every statement, things that you said to induce, could be introduced. That's where they go after ministers.

I think a large part of this is the fact that many people do not understand a Christian heart because they just don't like people that disagree with them. Whereas the Christian, the true Christian heart can disagree with people and love them, love them deeply and be willing to give their lives for them.

This is an unfair law, the way the rule is being put to it. We are not going to protect religious speech because you can go after a minister, and this came up in committee, you can go after a minister who says, gee, relations outside of a marriage with a man and a woman is wrong. Someone goes out after hearing that, shoots somebody, and then he says, well, the preacher told me it was wrong, that's what induced me to do that, the sermons, the Bible teachings, whatnot, that the preacher used that this person may have heard are all relevant on whether or not he was a principal and can go to prison for the actual shooting. And it also provides that nothing changes the rule of impeachment.

So if he says, well, no, I never advocate violence, well, here comes everything he has ever said, his hard drives, his files, and we had an amendment to deal with that, and we were not allowed to use it.

This is not a good law. These things are already protected. We ought to have an open rule to fix it.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of the time.

Mr. Speaker, this is a bad rule because it's a closed rule, which has been demonstrated with the observations of Mr. LUNGREN and Mr. GOHMERT.

Mr. Speaker, if someone commits a crime, they should be punished. Period. This is a bill that ends equality under the law by authorizing \$10 million in grants over 2 years to State and local law enforcement to combat hate crimes targeted to special categories of people. It is a bad bill. This rule is a bad bill, not allowing for improvement, so I ask Members to oppose the rule and the previous question.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I will insert into the RECORD at this time a list of endorsements from law enforcement organizations all across the country. I will also submit for the RECORD the endorsement of the National Education Association, the Religious Action Center of Reformed Judaism, the Matthew Shepard Foundation and the UAW.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT HATE CRIME
PREVENTION ACT OF 2007
LAW ENFORCEMENT SUPPORT FOR THIS
LEGISLATION

This legislation has received bipartisan majority support in Congress. In the last session of Congress, on September 14, 2005, the House of Representatives approved the measure as an amendment to the Children's Safety Act by a vote of 233-199. The Senate has approved the bill on two occasions since 2000, most recently in June, 2004 by a vote of 65-33. Unfortunately, in the past, the House leadership has acted to block approval of this legislation.

The measure also enjoys the support of over 210 civil rights, professional, civic, and religious groups, 31 state Attorneys General, former Attorney General Dick Thornburgh, and a number of the most important national law enforcement organizations, including:

Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association, Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association, Hispanic National Law Enforcement Association, International Association of Chiefs of Police, International Brotherhood of Police Officers, Major Cities Chiefs Association, National Asian Peace Officers Association, National Black Police Association, National Center for Women & Policing, National Coalition of Public Safety Officers, National District Attorneys Association, National Latino Police Officers Association, National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, National Sheriffs' Association, Police Executive Research Forum, Police Foundation.

Here's what some of them are saying about the legislation:

Police Executive Research Forum

"This measure is critical to helping law enforcement effectively address the ravaging effects on hate crimes on both the victims of these crimes and the communities destabilized by the fear and anger they generate . . . In the past, PERF has opposed efforts to expand the federal government's authority over traditionally local crimes. However, given the unusual nature of hate crimes and the substantial gaps in state laws, PERF believes in a significant federal role in combating hate crimes."—Excerpts from letter to Members of Congress from Chuck Wexler, Executive Director, PERF, July 19, 2004.

National Sheriffs' Association

"On behalf of the more than 22,000 members of the National Sheriffs' Association I am writing to seek your support for . . . the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act

[LLEEA]. Unfortunately, there are situations where state and local authorities are unable to properly investigate these crimes. This legislation overcomes those situations . . . The passage of LLEEA will greatly assist state and local law enforcement agencies in investigating and prosecuting hate crimes."—Excerpts from letters to congressional leadership from Sheriff Aaron D. Kennard, Salt Lake City, Utah, President, National Sheriffs' Association, July 21, 2004. Dick Thornburgh, Former U.S. Attorney General

"I would like to express my strong support for the passage of . . . the Hate Crimes Prevention Act . . . From my experiences as a Governor, the Attorney General, and as a parent of a child with a disability, I can attest to the importance of this legislation . . . Please add my name to the list of supporters for the passage of this important legislation."—Excerpts from letter to the Honorable Orrin G. Hatch, Sept. 29, 1998.

International Association of Chiefs of Police

"On behalf of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), I am writing to urge you to vote in support of . . . the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act . . . The passage of the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act will greatly assist state and local law enforcement agencies in investigating and prosecuting hate crimes. The IACP urges you to vote for [the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act] . . ."—Excerpts from letter to the Senate from Daniel N. Rosenblatt, IACP Executive Director, Alexandria, Virginia, July 19, 2004.

Albany County Sheriff's Department

"As you know, last week saw the conclusion of the trial of Aaron McKinney for the murder of Matthew Shepard, a case on which we worked day and night for the last year . . . We believe justice was served in this case, but not without cost. We have been devastated financially, due to expenses incurred in bringing Matthew's killers to justice. For example, we had to lay off five law enforcement staff. We do not want the federal take over of hate crimes, but communities like ours must be able to call upon the expertise and resources of the federal government. This approach worked very well in Jasper, Texas in the case of James Byrd Jr. Because of the multiple jurisdiction granted by current federal law related to race-based hate crimes, Jasper was able to access approximately \$284,000 in federal Byrne grant money. These grants are only available when a federal jurisdictional basis exists. Presently, unlike race, color, religion and national origin, sexual orientation is not covered. We believe this is a grave oversight that needs to be corrected . . . We respectfully urge you to do everything you can to give law enforcement the tools it needs to fight crime in this country."—Excerpts from letter to House Speaker Dennis Hastert from Sheriff James Pond and Detective Sergeant Robert DeBree, Albany County Sheriff's Department, Nov. 11, 1999.

Eric Holder, Former U.S. Deputy Attorney General

"The enactment of H.R. 1082 [bill number for Hate Crimes Prevention Act, 106th Congress] would significantly increase the ability of state and federal law enforcement agencies to work together to solve and prevent a wide range of violent crimes committed because of bias based on the race, color, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender, or disability of the victim. This bill is a thoughtful, measured response to a critical problem facing our Nation."—Excerpts from testimony before the House Judiciary Committee hearing on hate crimes, Aug. 4, 1999.